1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

V. LABOR WELFARE

A. Labor Insurance

Under the Labor Insurance Regulations of Communist China published in March 1951 and revised in January 1953, there were 5,380,000 workers insured in 1954 against losses[30] caused by old age, illness, and disability. In Central-South China, 317 organizations with a total of 155,000 workers were covered by the Labor Insurance Regulations in the first year of their implementation.[31] After 1950, all enterprises employing more than 300 workers in this region had established their own clinics to give free medical care to their workers.[32] Many workers in Central-South China were sent under the provisions of the labor insurance to Lu-shan, a famous summer resort, for rest and convalescence.

During the last quarter of 1950, many workers enlisted to fight in Korea as volunteers. The family dependents of those who were killed in action received a monthly pension from the labor insurance fund. In Wuhan, the family dependents of 11 seamen killed in Korea in September 1950 were alleged to have been awarded from 50-60 per cent of the men's original wages for a period of ten years.[33]

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30. People's China, May 1, 1955, pp. 3-5.
31. Yangtze Daily, Oct. 1, 1951, p. 3.
32. China Daily News, May 14, 1955, p. 6.
33. Chinese Worker Monthly, Oct. 15, 1950, p. 86.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

Such sporadic examples notwithstanding, a letter from a worker in a Hsin-yang factory in Honan Province indicates that labor insurance regulations have not been enforced in many cases. The letter stated that the manager of the factory did not want to give sick leave to a worker who fell ill, and so the man was forced to spend half of his wages in order to pay for a substitute worker for a few days, over and above his expenses for treatment and medicine.[34]

B. Labor Safety and Industrial Accidents

The Communists allege that the Central People's Government enacted 119 decrees, rules, and regulations concerning labor safety and sanitation[35] between 1949 and 1953. On the basis of press reports about industrial accidents emanating from the China Mainland, it is doubtful that these rules and regulations have been carried out. At the end of 1949, the Chinese People's Government initiated a nation-wide check-up on industrial safety and sanitation in all factories and mines. When this investigation started in the Central-South Region early in 1950, it was discovered that not a few factories and mines had completely neglected labor-safety measures. Conditions in the coal mines in Honan and Hunan provinces were the worst. After a serious accident resulting in more than one hundred deaths at the I-lo Coal Mine in Honan in February 1950, the Provincial Government issued

34. Yangtze Daily, Aug. 25, 1951, p. 5.
35. People's China, July 1, 1953, p. 11.